

TDEC'S APPROACH TO PRIORITIZING THE NEED FOR PLANNING REGIONAL WATER SYSTEMS

The Department would propose to assign priority for regional planning on the basis of the following criteria:

- Do the area systems have a history of inadequate sources of supply or lack hydraulic capacity that resulted in shortages or low pressures during the drought?
- Has there been inadequate planning or response at the local level to address the shortage or lack of hydraulic capacity?
- Do existing water system withdrawals interfere with sustaining aquatic biota or assimilative capacity of the area's streams?
- Is there duplication of existing water supply infrastructure in the region?
- Will the expected population growth and water supply demand of area water systems exceed the sustainable capacity of the source?
- Will the energy and financial impact of piping big waters to the region exceed the customer's ability to pay for the project or result in more harm to the environment than constructing headwater impoundments for a source of water supply?
- Does the system(s) have a source(s) of sufficient capacity to last another 50 years.
- Have the water systems in the area maximized interconnections with adjacent systems to mitigate possible service interruptions due to emergencies?
- Has there been a history of noncooperation among nearby systems?